

### Amendments of the Claims:

A detailed listing of all claims in the application is presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. All claims being currently amended are submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to immediate prior version of the claims. The changes in any amended claim are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A device having an allowance for creeping, comprising:

a base member having a mating portion having a receiving element; and

a face ~~an overlaying member, subject to creeping, overlaying~~ on top of the base member, ~~the overlaying member having a region at one end thereof, wherein the face is~~ subject to creep, comprising a clip tip member, which mates with the mating portion of the base, that is free of restriction or force exerted on the face ~~thereon due to creeping deformation thereof~~;

wherein the clip is not engaged with the mating portion of the base prior to creep deformation.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the face ~~overlaying member~~ is made of plastic composite material.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the device includes the tip member is ~~free from restriction due to creeping by means of leaving a gap between the clip tip member and the mating portion of the base, such that the mating portion is not engaged with the clip prior to deformation of the device due to creep the receiving element.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the base member is the base of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein the face ~~overlaying member~~ is a the face or a shoe of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the base further comprises at least one receiving element and the face further comprises at least one connecting element, wherein the connecting element is received by the receiving element.

8. (New) The device of claim 3, wherein the clip closes the gap and engages the mating portion of the base when the device is deformed due to creep.

9. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the face is made of plastic and a filler material.

10. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the mating portion is located on a first end of the base and the clip is located on an end of the face corresponding to the first end of the base.

11. (New) A method of reducing stress during assembly of a device comprising a base having a mating portion; and a face located on top of the base, wherein the face is subject to creep, comprising a clip-locking mechanism shaped to engage the mating portion of the base, comprising the step of engaging the clip locking mechanism with the mating portion, when the device is deformed due to creep.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the mating portion is located on a first end of the base and the clip-locking mechanism is located on an end of the face corresponding to the first end of the base.

13. (New) A device having allowance for creeping, comprising:

a base having a mating portion; and

a face located on top of the base, wherein the face is subject to creep, comprising a clip-locking mechanism shaped to engage the mating portion of the base;

such that, in a first position prior to creep, a gap exists between the mating portion of the base and the clip-locking mechanism and the mating portion is not engaged with the clip-locking mechanism; and

such that, in a second position, the face is deformed relative to the first position due to creep and the clip locking mechanism closes the gap and engages the mating portion of the base.

14. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the face is made of plastic.
15. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the face is a face or a shoe of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.
16. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the base is the base of a tensioning arm or a chain guide.
17. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the base further comprises at least one receiving element and the face further comprises at least one connecting element, wherein the connecting element is received by the receiving element.
18. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the face is made of plastic and a filler material.
19. (New) The device of claim 13, wherein the mating portion is located on a first end of the base and the clip-locking mechanism is located on an end of the face corresponding to the first end of the base.